Watershed Public Charter School honored with grant from Teach For America Baltimore

$10,000 award will support implementation of social-emotional learning curriculum

Towson, Md. – Watershed Public Charter School has been awarded a $10,000 grant from Teach For America Baltimore’s Courtney Cass Catalyst Fund.

The grant fund was created by Teach For America Baltimore to honor the legacy of its former executive director, Courtney Cass, and support Teach For America Baltimore alumni as they create innovations to support students’ academic success.

Watershed Assistant Principal Rachel Mejibovsky, a Teach For America Baltimore alum, developed and submitted the grant application on behalf of the school. The funds will be used to purchase the social-emotional curriculum Move This World and to cover the cost of training, parental resources, and related materials for the next three school years as Watershed expands from an elementary school to an elementary-middle school. The social-emotional curriculum is expected to impact nearly 400 students enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 8.

In writing to Mejibovsky about the grant award, Normandi Amprey, Teach For America Baltimore’s executive director, described Mejibovsky’s proposal as “catalyzing” and “poised to make an impact in Baltimore.”

“Winning this grant award will help Watershed continue to strengthen our curriculum and enhance student progress,” said Watershed Principal Lori Widney. “Social-emotional learning is incredibly important to student growth. Watershed is excited to use this program to connect students, teachers, and families with actionable steps to manage emotions and peer conflict. This grant will help us add to
our project-based, environmental, arts-integrated curriculum and enhance our ability to teach the whole child. Ms. Mejibovsky’s previous experience with Teach For America has been a wonderful community partnership that continues to support the education of Baltimore County students.”

In her application, Mejibovsky noted that, as Baltimore County’s only public charter school, Watershed currently serves 287 students from 20 different ZIP codes, and that therefore the school has a singular opportunity to reach the larger community.

A native of Iowa, Mejibovsky began her teaching career as a 2011 Teach For America corps member at REACH! Partnership School in Baltimore City. She has worked in both public and private schools in the Baltimore area, serving as a K-8 teacher, coach, and assistant principal. Her experience with curriculum writing and cross-disciplinary instruction brought her to Watershed Public Charter School in 2021. She holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Central College and a master’s degree in educational studies and administration from Johns Hopkins University.

(Editor’s note: A photo of Mejibovsky can be found in a Flickr album.)

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